

## ARE UNDER THE BAN

### Catholic Archbishops Declare Against Secret Societies.

## WHAT MEMBERSHIP BRINGS

Archbishop Katzer Brings Forward the  
Petition of the Baltimore German  
Catholic Central Society.

NEW YORK, Nov. 17.—The second day's session of the annual conference of the archbishops of the Roman Catholic church in the United States began at 10 o'clock this morning at the archepiscopal residence. Cardinal Gibbons presiding, as at yesterday's session. All the archbishops, or their representatives, were present as was Archbishop Natoli, the papal delegate. Again the deliberations were carried on

behind closed doors. The major portion of the time, it was learned, was occupied in the discussion on the condemnation of certain secret societies. The debate referred chiefly to the *Ordered Fellows*, numbering about five hundred thousand in the United States, and the *Sons of Temperance* whose roll includes about seventy thousand members. Bishop Kater of Milwaukee brought to the attention of the council, by presenting the report of the German Catholic Central society of the United States, which was adopted at Dubuque, Ia., in September last, asking the conference to clearly define the designation "secret society" in unmistakable terms, as there is some doubt as to the minds of some of the church authorities as to whether the societies named come under the ban of the papal bull.

**Free Masons Excommunicated.**  
In explaining his position, Archbishop Katzer said that it is absolutely not true that the Free Masons are the only ones forbidden by the church and that consequently a Catholic may join any other lodge or society, except the Free Masons.  
He quoted from the injunction of the third plenary council at Baltimore, as follows:  
First.—That all former decrees of the Roman pontiffs against all societies, condemned by the holy see are to remain in full force, according to the tenor of the constitution Apostolic sedes, and the meaning of the Roman pontiff.  
Second.—That the Free Masons and the Carbonari are excommunicated by name.

Third—That all other societies, though not mentioned by name, are excommunicated, if they are of the same nature as the Free Masons and the Secret Societies in all those ceremonies which openly or secretly plot against the church, or against the lawful government of the state.

Fourth—That all societies are excommunicated which have their own religious or civil laws, their own (religious) ritual and their own religious ceremonies, in such a manner as thereby to become a heretic or schismatic sect.

**Secret Societies Under the Man.**

Fifth.—That any society which requires its members, be it under oath or otherwise, not to be subject to any ecclesiastical authority, that is, the bishop, or which demands, be it by oath or mere promise, from its members a blind and absolute obedience, is forbidden under all circumstances, and the members of such a society cannot be absolved until they actually leave the society or at least promise to do so at once.

Sixth.—The faithful, and especially the youth, are to be taught and earnestly admonished to reject a social life in such societies, as in the judgment of the bishop of their own diocese, are in

any way dangerous to faith and morals, for, as the instructions of the Holy Roman and Universal Inquisition of May 10, 1884, remarks, it is well to be unkind to those who are not clearly belonging to those enumerated above (that is, to societies excommunicated or forbidden under mortal sin), are at least doubtful and dangerous. The bishop, whose chief care it must be to preserve the doctrine pure and the practice uncorrupted, must know that it is his duty to deter and keep away their flocks from these societies.

**Odd Fellows Exempt.**

According to Archbishop Katerer the society of Odd Fellows has within late years gained a large increase of membership from the Catholic ranks on the idea that they are not Free Masons, and therefore not a society forbidden by the Catholic Church. The council of Baltimore has appointed the college if the archbishops of the United States is the only competent tribunal in the matter of secret societies. He argued

that it is the duty of the present conference to determine exactly the question at issue. The majority of the conference coincided with the opinions expressed by Archbishop Katzer, and appropriate action will be taken before the close of the conference, so that the matter will be indisputably settled.

The only phase of the school question touched upon at the today's session, was that of the treatment of the aboriginal Indian children in the western reservations, who have been compelled to attend non-Catholic schools, despite the protests of their parents. The Right Rev. Bishop P. L. Chapelle, the co-adjutor and representative of archbishop Salpointe, of Santa Fe, was the principal speaker on this subject and he led for some decisive action in the part of his colleague. The conference adjourned at 2 o'clock in the evening.

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**Elected Officers.**

**CLEVELAND, Nov. 11.**—The non-partisan W. C. T. U. elected the following officers today: President, Mrs. Ellen J. Sumner of Cleveland; vice president, Mrs. Hugh Campbell of Pittsburgh, general secretary, Mrs. Howard M. Ingram of Cleveland; recording secretary, Mrs. A. Lawrence Porter of New Orleans; treasurer, Mrs. C. Aurelia Alfano of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Miss Jennie Langer of Brooklyn, N. Y., will have charge of the "W" work. The remainder of the session was devoted to routine business. Tonight Mrs. J. Ellen Foster of Iowa delivered an address.

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**Miskenewes Discharged.**

**NEW YORK, Nov. 17.**—Court Eugene Miskenewes, who was arrested on a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses, was discharged today. Miskenewes's scheme was to build railroads in China.